AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A vector for the oral administration of at least one pharmacologically active substance, said vector comprising:

a matrix being essentially hydrophilic in nature, said matrix having an outer surface modified with one or more chemical species attached to said matrix by weak bonds;

said chemical species being at least one of fatty acids and derivatives of fatty acids;

said chemical species giving said vector an essentially lipophilic nature;

said vector an essentially lipophilic nature;

said weak bonds capable of detaching said chemical species from said matrix upon contact with microvilli present in the intestine; and

at least one pharmacologically active substance being contained within said matrix,

wherein said vector has gastric protection that contains said vector in a lipophilic compound,

said vector has a largest dimension that is between 200 nm and 300 nm,

said vector allows said pharmacologically active substance to pass from the intestinal lumen to the blood, optionally via the interstitial fluid, without denaturation or degradation of said at least one pharmacologically active substance, and

upon contact with microvilli present in the intestine during passage through the intestinal lumen, said chemical species detach from said matrix such that said matrix becomes an essentially hydrophilic nature.

2. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vector is biocompatible and bioassimilable or metabolizable at a pH of between approximately 6.5 and 7.5.

3. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chemical species are detached from the matrix when the vector passes from the intestinal lumen to the blood, optionally via the interstitial fluid.

4. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main constituent of the hydrophilic matrix is chosen from polylactates, poly(lactate-co-glycolate)s, polymers or copolymers based on hyaluronic acid, on chitosan, on starch, on dextran and copolymers thereof and mixtures thereof.

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The vector as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising chemical species ~~are~~ chosen from paraffins, lecithins, amino acids, ~~fatty acids, derivatives of fatty acids,~~ esters, stearates, glycerides, benzyls, inositol phosphates (IPs), glycerol phosphates, lipophilic polymers, and mixtures thereof.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the weak bonds are bonds of electrostatic and/or ionic nature and/or of hydrogen bond type.

8. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vector has a largest dimension that is between approximately 10 nm and approximately 10 µm.

9. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 8, wherein said vector is in the form of spheres.

10. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vector comprises a matrix in the form of a gel containing said at least one pharmaceutically active substance or a mixture thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vector comprises a matrix in the form of a capsule containing said at least one pharmaceutically active substance or a mixture thereof.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gastric protection comprises constituents selected from alginates, calcium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

16. (Canceled)

17. (previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lipophilic compound is selected from the group consisting of organic oils, mineral oils, plant oils, animal oils, and mixtures thereof.

18. (previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, said vector consisting of a plurality of hydrophilic capsules modified with the chemical species that give them a lipophilic nature, said capsules being dispersed in a lipophilic medium that is itself contained in a capsule that provides gastric protection.

19. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one pharmaceutically active substance is selected from substances capable of being denatured or degraded upon direct oral administration.

20. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one pharmaceutically active substance is a peptide or a protein in nature.

21. (Withdrawn) The vector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one pharmaceutically active substance is insulin.

22. (Withdrawn) A gastroresistant carrier comprising one or more of said vectors as claimed in claim 1.

23. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one said vector as defined in claim 1 or a gastroresistant carrier comprising at least one said vector.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a medicament that is active when administered orally in human or veterinary therapy and that has curative and/or preventive properties and/or properties that allow diagnosis, which comprises using an

effective amount of the vector as claimed in claim 1 with an appropriate excipient.

25. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 24, for producing a pharmaceutical product intended for the treatment of diabetes.

26-34. (Canceled)